

Application No.: 10/698275  
Docket No.: AD6859USCIP

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AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A process for the production of cyclic ester oligomers, comprising carrying out in a continuous manner the steps of:
  - (iii) contacting linear ester oligomers, having a degree of polymerization of about 1 to about 20, dissolved in a solvent with an enzyme to generate a solution enriched in cyclic ester oligomers, and
  - (iv) separating the cyclic ester oligomers from the solution.
2. (original) The process of Claim 1 wherein a recirculating reactor is used to produce the cyclic ester oligomers.
3. (original) The process of Claim 1 wherein a linear reactor is used to produce the cyclic ester oligomers.
4. (original) The process of Claim 1 wherein the linear ester oligomers are derived from diols of the formula HO((CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>p</sub>O)<sub>r</sub>H, where p is 2-10 and r is 1-5, and dimethyl terephthalate.
5. (original) The process of Claim 1 wherein the linear ester oligomers are derived from diols of the formula HO((CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>p</sub>O)<sub>r</sub>H, where p is 2-15 and r is 1-10, and dimethyl terephthalate.
6. (canceled)
7. (original) The process of Claim 1 wherein the enzyme is at least one lipase, protease, and/or esterase.
8. (original) The process of Claim 1 wherein the cyclic ester oligomers are separated from the solution by precipitation.
9. (original) The process of Claim 1 wherein the cyclic ester oligomers are separated from the solution by extraction.
10. (original) The process of Claim 1 where the cyclic ester oligomers are separated from the solution by evaporation.
11. (original) The process of Claim 1 where the cyclic ester oligomers are separated from the solution by crystallization.